in price of foodgrains was the opening of adequate number of relief shops wherefrom stipulated quantities of foodgrains are distributed at controlled prices. Even though the number of relief shops functioning in the derationed areas of adjoining Madras Province is almost equal to the number of ration shops which were in existence prior to decontrol, it is stated that there is no tendency for the prices to come down. Some of the deficit units, it is understood, are even seriously contemplating the re-imposition of controls with greater rigour.

4. In the light of the above facts, opportunity was taken of the presence of the Regional Food Commissioner, Madras, in the capital, to discuss this question with him. The Regional Food Commissioner stated that the effects of decontrol and derationing even in surplus areas had been far satisfactory and that great caution was, therefore, necessary before this Government enbarked on any policy of derationing and decontrol in the State, especially as Travancore was a heavily deficit area in food grains. In view of the uncertainties pointed out above and in view of the fact that it would be unwise at this juncture to experiment with a food policy whose implementation elsewhere in India has produced only very adverse results, Government have decided that the proposed scheme of zonal decontrol and derationing in selected taluks in the State may wait till conditions show material improvement and till the Government of India lay down their definite food policy in the light of experience of the working of decontrol and derationing in other areas so far.

Chitralayam.

527. MR. SREE V. DAS (*Kalkulam I—Hindu Nadar*): Will the Hon'ble Minister answer the following questions?

(*a*) what is the educational qualification of the officer in charge of the Sree Chitralayam?

(*b*) what special qualifications has he in respect of drawing and painting.

HON'BLE MR. T. M. VARGHESE: (*a*) The Officer has studied up to the Sixth Form.

(*b*) He underwent his preliminary course in painting with Mr. A. P. Banerjee at Adyar, Madras.

He has also undergone training under Mr. R. N. Chakravarti at the Andhra Jaiteeya Kalasala, Masulipatam, Mr. D. P. Roy Chowdry, Principal, School of Arts, Madras, and Mr. Nandalal Bose. He underwent final studies under Mr. Abanindranatha Tagore.

Fish culture pond.

528. MR. E. BHASKARAN (*Karunagapally I—Araya*): Will the Hon'ble Minister for Post War Reconstruction be pleased to state:

(*a*) what is the total area of the fish culture pond which has been started at Ayiramthengu;

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(*b*) when was it started and what amount has so far been spent in the construction and maintenance of the ponds ;

(*c*) what is the total yield of fish from the pond so far and what is the income from a unit area of one acre ;

(*d*) has this fish culture station attempted stocking private ponds ;

(*e*) if so how many and what is their target ; and

(*f*) how has the fish caught been disposed and at what price per pound ?

HON'BLE MR. K. M. KORAH (*a*) 31 acres 13 cents.

(*b*) In Chingom 1122, Rs. 10,779 for construction and Rs. 4,633 for maintenance.

(*c*) So far only one tank covering an area of 20 acres has been stocked and from it about 15,000 lbs. of fish have been caught and sold at a total price of Rs. 4,375. This gives an income of Rs. 218 per acre which compares favourably with the results obtained in foreign countries.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) 35 tanks. The proposed target is 50 tanks before the end of 1124.

(*f*) The fish caught has been sold to the public at an average price of 4 to 5 annas per pound.

MR. PRESIDENT : ചോദ്യോത്തരങ്ങൾ അവസാനിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

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